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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Cape Cod National Seashore News Release

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Cape Cod National Seashore to Celebrate International Marconi Day on April 22, 2006

Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent George Price has announced that, on April 22, the seashore and amateur radio operators will be celebrating International Marconi Day. This event honors the birthday of the “Wizard of Wireless,” Guglielmo Marconi on the Saturday closest to his birth date, April 25, 1874. The public is invited to participate in the event from 10 AM to 3 PM, at the Coast Guard Station at Coast Guard Beach, in Eastham. The event is free.

On January 18, 1903, Marconi sent and received the first public two-way wireless communication between the United States and Europe (Poldhu Station, Great Britain), from his South Wellfleet Station. This station site is located in Cape Cod National Seashore, and is open to the public. A model, and remnants of the original station, can be viewed at the site.

During the event at the Coast Guard Station, the Cape Cod Marconi Radio Club, KM1CC, will operate HF radios to make two-way contacts with historic Marconi Stations and radio operators around the world. Radio operators will use: CW, continuous wave or Morse Code, and voice communication on

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local 2 Meter repeaters, 17 Meter, 20 Meter, 40 Meter, and 80 Meters. Also, between 10 AM and noon, and 1 PM and 3 PM, a ranger will be available to talk to visitors at the Marconi Station Site, off Route 6 in Wellfleet.

In advance of International Marconi Day, on Tuesday, April 18, a park ranger will present a family-oriented program about Marconi's achievements. "*Where the Spark of Magic Happened*" is a short, 30- minute walk will take place at 2 PM, at the Marconi Site.

Cape Cod National Seashore has a free Marconi lesson plan on its website, *Marconi: Beyond the Horizon* at <http://www.nps.gov/caco/education/lessonplans.html>. This lesson plan includes activities that meet Massachusetts' history, physical science, and technology/engineering learning standards.

For more information about historic Marconi Stations around the world, and International Marconi Day visit: <http://www.gb4imd.co.uk/> . For more information about facilities and programs at Cape Cod National Seashore, visit the park's website: <http://www.nps.gov/caco>.

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